

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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P R 210910Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9490

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

13T H AF

UNCLAS MANILA 20042

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: MARCOS' SPEECH AT ARMED FORCES DAY

1. MARCOS SPOKE AT ARMED FORCES DAY CEREMONIES DECEMBER 21. FOCUS WAS PRIMARILY ON FAMILIAR THEMES OF THE NEW SOCIETY AND THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING SPECIFIC COMMENTS WERE NOTEWORTHY.

2. MILITARY BASES. MARCOS STATED THAT "MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHETHER USED BY PHILIPPINE OR US FORCES, FORM PART OF A VITAL PEACEKEEPING APPARATUS IN THE REGION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD." HE SAID, "WE BELIEVE THE CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF THE BASES IS OUR SINGLE CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL AND WORLD PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS." MARCOS NOTED FURTHER THAT THE PHILIPPINES
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AND THE OTHER ASEAN NATIONS RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE EQUILIBRIUM OF POWER IN THE AREA. HE LATER ADDED THAT THE PHILIPPINE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BASES MUST BE ON THE BASIS OF SELF-RESPECT AND SOVEREIGNTY. REFERRING TO THE CURRENT BASE NEGOTIATIONS, MARCOS SAID THAT THEY ARE GOING WELL LARGELY BECAUSE "A NEW PAGE HAS BEEN TURNED IN PHILIPPINE-US RELATIONS." (MARCOS LATER URGED

PATIENCE AND BETTER COMMUNICATION IN THE FACE OF WHAT HE CALLED UNJUSTIFIED CRITICISM FROM ABROAD.)

3. MILITARY MODERNIZATION PLAN. MARCOS SAID A NEW 5-YEAR SELF-RELIANCE PLAN FOR THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND WILL START IN JANUARY. HE NOTED THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THIS PLAN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE THREE MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH THE US (MILITARY BASES, MUTUAL DEFENSE, AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE) WILL BE CRITICAL.

4. POLITICAL NORMALIZATION. MARCOS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF DECEMBER 17 REFERENDUM (NOTE: WITH SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 50PERCENT OF BALLOTS NOW TABULATED, COUNT IS STILL RUNNING 9 TO 1 "YES".) HE SAID PHILIPPINES CAN NOW MOVE RESOLUTELY FORWARD WITH NORMALIZATION. MARCOS SAID THAT THE FORMATION OF THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA WOULD BE A NECESSARY FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS OF LIFTING MARTIAL LAW. IN THAT REGARD, MARCOS SAID NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOR THE INTERIM BATASANG PAMBANSA (NATIONAL LEGISLATURE) AND FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WILL BE HELD IN 1978. HE SAID HE WILL CONVENE THE BATASAN BAYAN (LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL) IN JANUARY TO DECIDE (A) WHETHER ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD IN JUNE OR IN LATE 1978, AND (B) WHETHER LOCAL ELECTIONS SHOULD BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OR SUBSEQUENT TO NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. MARCOS MADE POINT OF WARNING AGAINST PREMATURE CAMPAIGNING, SOME OF WHICH HE SAID WAS IN EVIDENCE DURING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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REFERENDUM BALLOTING.

5. MINDANAO. IN DISCUSSING REASONS WHY MARTIAL LAW SHOULD NOT YET BE LIFTED, MARCOS REFERRED TO THE SITUATION IN MINDANAO. HE WARNED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPRUDENT AND FOOLHARDY TO LIFT MARTIAL LAW PREMATURELY. HE CITED NEW EVIDENCE OF LINKS BETWEEN MNLF AND NPA. HE OBSERVED AT ONE POINT, "WE ARE NOT YET READY TO SAY THAT HELP (TO MUSLIM REBELS) FROM OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY HAS STOPPED." AT SAME TIME, HE MADE VEILED REFERENCE TO SECRET MEASURES DESIGNED TO BRING PEACE TO MINDANAO BY NEXT YEAR.

6. GOVERNMENT CLEAN UP. MARCOS ANNOUNCED NEW DRIVE TO CLEANSE GOVERNMENT OF INCOMPETENT OR DISHONEST OFFICIALS. HE SAID THE CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT BE DIRECTED AGAINST PERSONS WHO VOTED "NO" IN LAST WEEK'S REFERENDUM. HE ORDERED ORGANIZATION OF TANOD BAYAN (OMBUDSMAN) AND SANDIGANG BAYAN (COURT TO TRY CASES OF ERRING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS). HE ALSO ORDERED REVIEW ALL GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR ANOMALIES.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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